



PRESS RELEASE: 7 June 2023

LONDON - The Boat Race and our principal partner Gemini are delighted to announce a funding award which will enable young people across the UK to learn to row.

The Boat Race and Gemini are incredibly proud to announce that five organisations have been awarded funding from The Boat Race Fund for the second year running. The organisations are:

- Brixton Wings, London
- Ely College, Cambridgeshire
- The Firhill Youth Project and Community Sports Hub, Glasgow
- LYR - Leeds, Bradford and Wakefield
- Warrington Youth Rowing

The Boat Race and Gemini have a shared vision to remove barriers and increase inclusion in the sport. By supporting the work of dedicated and highly skilled organisations across the country we can play our part in empowering the next generation of rowers. The grassroots organisations receiving funding are in five cities around the UK and will enable young people, who may have never otherwise been able to access the sport, to get out on the water and get involved.

This funding will help to address some of the financial barriers that prospective rowers might face. It will introduce them to the sport on rowing machines in gyms at schools and on the water at local rowing clubs. The projects have been chosen because they engage and empower young people to develop technical, athletic and life skills.

This winning combination enables participants to build the confidence, resilience, and dynamism to realise their potential both on and off the water.

Stephanie Ramezan, Head of UK at Gemini said, "We're thrilled to partner with The Boat Race to help broaden the event's impact by increasing access to rowing facilities and education, and removing financial barriers that often prevent prospective athletes from participating in the sport of rowing. It's an honour and a privilege to play a part in ensuring the longevity of such a treasured sporting event."



Erin Kennedy, Boat Race Fund trustee said: “The Oxford and Cambridge Rowing Foundation are delighted to support five fantastic projects this year through The Boat Race Fund, supported by Gemini. OCRF and The Boat Race are committed to increasing access to our sport and widening participation amongst young rowers. This year’s beneficiaries are spread across the UK and share our passion for sharing our sport with young people who may not usually get the opportunity to try rowing. We are really excited to watch their projects grow and flourish this year with the assistance of The Boat Race Fund and we are very proud to be able to support such important work.”

Siobhan Cassidy, Chair of The Boat Race Company Limited said: “Everyone in The Boat Race community is passionate about education and rowing. We have all witnessed and experienced the transformative power of rowing, the discipline, the resilience, the camaraderie... We want as many young people as possible to have access to that same experience.

We know that there are significant barriers to many young people entering the sport, from equipment costs, to travel and general representation.

That is why we are partnering with these five exceptional projects. We are proud to play our part in opening the sport to a new generation of young people.”

The Boat Race and Gemini recognise the important place sport holds in society for young people. It is important we work with partner organisations, to build a path to a happier and healthier future for young people.

*****ENDS *****

Notes to Editors

Brixton Wings

This ‘can do’ grassroots organisation formed in 2010 has a mission is to advance the life chances and ‘lived experiences’ of young people, who might fail to engage with, or have access to niche sports. Led by founder Medg Sullivan, Brixton Wings helps participants realise essential life skills through sport. Funding will support underrepresented 11–18-year-olds from Brixton and Lambeth to join ‘Learn to Row’ development rowing courses and will support life coaching and intergenerational conversations.



Ely College

Ely College has partnered with Isle of Ely Rowing Club to offer rowing taster sessions to students. Funding will give students the opportunity to take part in an activity previously perceived as financially, physically, or even mentally inaccessible. The college partnership with Isle of Ely Rowing Club, has meant rowing has never been more popular at the school and the support from The Boat Race Fund and Gemini will allow for the continuation of taster sessions to ensure the maximum number of students will have any barrier removed from taking part in rowing.

The Firhill Youth Project and Community Sports Hub

This Community Sports Hub has worked very closely with the community in North Glasgow, to provide sports opportunities that best suits the needs of the area. Based at the Firhill Basin, beside the Partick Thistle Football Club Stadium - the hub provides free weekly rowing sessions along with other water sports activities for the local community. With support from volunteers and college students, there is always a warm welcome to young people from North Glasgow.

LYR – Active Row Leeds

The Active Row Leeds programme is built on a well-established model. Inclusivity and accessibility are at the core of their approach. Active Row Leeds works with schools that have higher levels of underrepresentation within their community. This is not limited to race or socioeconomic group but also Special Educational Needs and Disability. LYR Leeds organises school-based club sessions led by dynamic and engaging coaches. Clubs are open to all pupils, ensuring the widest possible participation. Half of all project attendees came from an ethnic group. 8.5% of participants had Special Educational Needs or a Disability.

Warrington Youth Rowing (WYR)

Opening empty rowing clubs across the UK for daytime access so that hundreds of school children can learn to row is the ambition of this initiative. Founded to offer rowing to young people who might otherwise might not have the opportunity to join a rowing club, Warrington YR now has two additional hubs in Liverpool and Northwich. In the space of five years, 28 secondary schools and 2 special schools now have over 300 students involved in rowing at local rowing clubs.



For more details about the 5 project please contact

1. Brixton Wings – Medg Sullivan: medg@btinternet.com
2. Ely College – Jason Coe: JCoe@elycollege.co.uk
3. Firhill Youth Project and Community Hub – Amiee Williams: treasurer.fypcsh@outlook.com
4. LYR Leeds – Active Row – Matt Rostron: mrostron@londonyouthrowing.com
5. Warrington Youth Rowing - Richard Sinnott: richard@warringtonyouthrowing.org.uk

For further information please contact mediaenquiries@theboatrace.org

Photography

High resolution photography of our facility / members in action are available upon request.

About

Gemini

Gemini is a platform that allows customers to buy, sell, and store cryptocurrencies like bitcoin, ether, and DeFi tokens. Gemini's simple, reliable, and secure products are built to unlock the next era of financial, creative & personal freedom. Gemini was founded in 2014 by twin brothers Cameron and Tyler Winklevoss.

About The Boat Race Fund

The Boat Race Fund is governed and managed by Trustees from the Oxford and Cambridge Rowing Foundation. It is the charitable outreach support of the world-famous Oxford and Cambridge Boat Race. The Fund was founded in 2021 with principal partner Gemini and the Boat Race is incredibly proud to work with Gemini to enable young people across the UK to have the opportunity to try rowing. The fund was established to break down barriers to participation in rowing and has given nearly 900 young people in programmes across the UK, the opportunity to learn life skills as well as to try rowing.

www.theboatrace.org



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